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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,351	01/16/2001	Woo-Hwa Ha	P56262	2139

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ROBERT E. BUSHNELL
1522 K STREET NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1202

EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,351

Applicant(s)

HA, WOO-HWA

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Response to restriction requirement filed on 10/7/05.
- Claims 1-13, and 15-18 are pending; claim 14 has been canceled.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments (filed 10/7/05) with respect to restriction requirement mailed on 9/8/05 (see pages 2-4), with respect to claims 1-13, and 15-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The restriction requirement of claims 1-13, and 15-18 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horaguchi et al (JP 09139794), and in view of Gase et al (US 5580177).

Regarding claim 1, Horaguchi discloses a method of storing an initial use date of a printer, comprising:

- determining whether the printer is being used for the first time (determine whether PC 2 and multifunctional printer 1 are interconnected, fig. 1, abstract, and par. 23-25); and
- storing an initial use date in a storage of the printer (printer's RAM 15, fig. 2) when the printer is used for the first time by transferring the initial use date from a personal computer (transferring time and date from PC 2, pars. 23-25) to the printer.

However, Horaguchi fails to teach and/or suggest determining step and storing step being executed when drivers for the printer are being installed (in other words, Horaguchi fails

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to teach and/or suggest installing a new printer driver each time a new printer is connected to a host PC).

Gase, in the same field of endeavor for printing, teaches determining step and storing step being executed when drivers for the printer are being installed (a new printer driver is installed each time a new printer is connected to a host device, col. 1, lines 42-45, which is well known in the art).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify printing system of Horaguchi to install a new printer driver each time a new printer is connected to a host device as taught by Gase because of a following reason: (●) to allow the client computer to use the newly added printer (col. 1, lines 46-47) and to communicate the initial use date from host device to printer properly; (●) and to ensure the printer is operate correctly by installing a new and compatible printer driver each time a new printer is added. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Horaguchi with Gase to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring data from said printer to a computer attached to said printer (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 4, wherein said initial use date is entered into said computer by a user (par. 23-26).

Regarding claim 6, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 4, wherein said computer counts the date via an internal clock registers the time and the date into memory of printer if said time and date are correct (pars. 23-26).

Claims 2-3, 7-13, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong (EP 965950), and in view of Horaguchi et al (JP 09139794).

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Regarding claim 2, Hong discloses a method of informing an initial use date (first use date of newly purchased electronic device, abstract pages 1-4) of an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

- providing data stored in a storage (memory 108, fig. 1) to a host (transmits via antenna 101, fig. 1), the storage including a first area (initial use date is absence or presence, par. 7 and par. 28-35) for storing information indicating whether the initial use date was stored and a second area for recording the initial use date (initial use date, par. 7 and par. 28-35);
- determining whether the initial use date was stored (par. 7 and pars. 28-35) referring to the data indicating the presence or absence of the initial use date by the host;
- providing a current year/month/date to the electronic device by the host (par. 28-35) if the initial use date was not stored;
- storing (memory 108, fig. 1) the current year/month/date received from the host as the initial use date in the second area of the storage and information indicating that the initial use date was stored by the electronic device (pars. 7 and par. 28-35); and
- outputting the initial use date from the storage by the electronic device (par. 7 and pars. 28-35) upon receipt of a user command.

Hong teaches an example of providing and storing an initial use date of an electronic device (i.e. television and cellular phone) after purchase for verifying the warranty period of the electronic device, but fails to teach and/or suggest that an electronic device is a printer device and installing printer driver onto newly purchased electronic device (specifically, Hong fails to teach and/or suggest transferring initial use date from host to printer device and to install new printer driver for newly purchased printer).

Horaguchi teaches an example of an electronic device is a printer device and wherein a host computer transfers initial use date to printer device (transferring initial use date from host to printer upon connecting printer device with host computer, pars. 23-27) and installing printer driver onto a newly added electronic device (i.e. printer) is well known in the art (i.e. a new printer driver is required for newly added printer to work).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hong's invention to include printer device as taught by Horaguchi because of a following reason: (●) to extend coverage capability (i.e. warranty date) of not only for

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televisions and cellular phones as taught by Hong, but also for printers and other electronic devices (i.e. digital camera, PDA, and etc).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hong with Horaguchi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the step (3) comprises the steps of:

- displaying a first message asking whether a year/month/date counted by an internal counter is identical (identical, pars. 23-28) to the current year/month/date by the host if the initial use date was not stored;
- providing (pars. 23-28) the counted year/month/date as the current year/month/date to the printer by the host upon receipt of a positive response from a user;
- displaying (par. 25) a second message requesting the user to enter the current year/month/date by the host upon receipt of a negative response from the host computer; and
- providing (pars. 23-28) a year/month/date received from the user as the current year/month/date to the printer by the host upon receipt of the year/month/date from the user.

Regarding claim 7, combinations of Hong and Horaguchi further teaches a method for initializing a printer attached to a computer, comprising the steps of:

- electrically connecting said printer to said computer (fig. 1 of Horaguchi);
- applying power to both said computer and said printer (AC power, par. 22 of Horaguchi);
- installing a printer driver (installing printer driver onto a newly added electronic device (i.e. printer) is well known in the art) into said computer;
- sending data (par. 23-28 of Horaguchi) from a memory space in said printer to said computer;
- determining whether said printer has an initial date (par. 28-35 of Hong) stored in said memory of said printer; and
- typing in an initial start date (par. 25 of Horaguchi) by a user into said computer if said initial date is absent from said memory of said printer. Please refering to claim 2 above for more details.

Regarding claim 8, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 7, further comprising the step of having the computer furnish said initial date of said printer if a clock on said computer is accurate (pars. 28-35).

Regarding claim 9, Horaguichi further teaches the method of claim 8, further comprising the step of storing said initial date of said printer in said memory in said printer (RAM 15, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 10, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 2, said host being a personal computer (PC 2, fig. 1) attached to but separate from the printer (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 11, Hong further teaches the method of claim 2, wherein in step (2), the first area and not the second area is consulted to determine whether the initial use date has previously been stored (par. 28-35), said first area being distinguished from the second area.

Regarding claim 16, Hong further teaches the method of claim 2, further comprising updating the first area to indicate that the initial use date has been moved when the host supplies the printer with the initial use date (par. 28-35).

Regarding claim 12, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 7, said computer being a personal computer, said personal computer is being distinguished from the printer (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 13, Hong further teaches the method of claim 7, said memory space comprising a first area and a second area separate from the first area, the initial date being stored in the second area and an indicator being stored in the first area that indicates whether or not an initial date has been stored in the second area, said determining step examining the contents of the first area and not the second area (pars. 28-40).

Regarding claim 15, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 12, said typing step is being conducted at the personal computer and not at the printer (pars. 20-26).

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Regarding claim 17, Hong further teaches the method of claim 13, the first area is updated when the initial date is stored in the second area in the printer (pars. 28-35).

Regarding claim 18, Horaguchi further teaches the method of claim 17, the first and the second areas being updated when the print drivers are being installed (installing printer driver onto a newly added electronic device (i.e. printer).

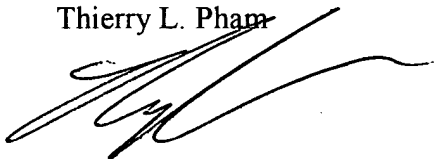
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER